

## **.44a Wild Horses**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horses/Burros
Objective Number	WH/B-1

Objective: WH/B-1

Maintain a viable population of wild horses and burros on public lands where there was wild horse and burro use as of December 15, 1971, and achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the forage resource.

Rationale:

Public Law (PL) 92-195 places the management of wild horses/burros under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

In 1979 it is estimated that there are approximately 6,019 wild horses and 132 wild burros within the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area.

There is presently no forage allocation to wild horses/burros within the planning unit. There is direct competition with livestock for inadequate quantities of forage, thus the resource is seriously overobligated and overutilized.

Livestock management alternatives (i.e., fences, grazing systems) are not applicable to the management of wild horses/burros. These types of alternatives limit the wild and free-roaming status of wild horses/burros. They may also create areas of critical environmental concern by forcing the animals into unsuitable areas.

PL 92-195 does not allow the relocation of wild horses or burros into areas where they did not exist as of December 15, 1971. It is assumed that the district wild horse/burro inventory conducted in March of 1969 was used as the basis for determining wild horse/burro use areas and numbers as of December 15, 1971, as this is the only inventory available prior to the passage of PL 92-195. A fixed-wing aircraft was utilized for the entire inventory, requiring only 21 hours of flight time to complete. This is a relatively short period of time to accurately inventory eight and one-half million acres. The narrative describing the procedures and results of the 1969 inventory states that the observer felt he counted only 80% of the total number of wild horses and burros. This indicates that the 1969 inventory is not totally reliable and that it can be stated that wild horses or burros have existed and were simply overlooked on other areas in the district. The 1969 inventory revealed 14 wild horse use areas and 1 wild burro use area. In 1974 the first thorough inventory was completed. This inventory revealed 21 horse HUAs and 4 burro HUAs. Presently there are 22 horse HUAs and 4 burro HUAs.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)
Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity
Wild Horses/Burros
Objective Number
WH/B-1

WH/B-1 (continued)

Checkerboard land areas are those blocks of land where a private section (approximately 1 square mile) alternates with a public section. The majority of these areas are unfenced. During normal grazing a wild horse or burro will stray from public lands and utilize forage on private lands. Eight of the twenty-two HUAs in the resource area contain checkerboard land. The Bureau of Land Management is authorized to remove wild horses/burros from private lands at the owner's request, under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4750.3. There have been requests from landowners on all eight of the HUAs containing checkerboard land to remove the wild horses/burros.

Section 1 of PL 92-195 states in part that wild horse/burros "are to be considered in the area where they are presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands."

Section 3 of PL 92-195 states in part that "the Secretary is authorized and directed to protect and manage wild free-roaming horses and burros as components of the public lands," and that the Secretary "shall manage wild free-roaming horses and burros in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands."

Section 3 of PL 92-195 also states in part that "all management activities shall be at the minimum feasible level."

Part 43 CFR subpart 4730.2 states in part that "wild free-roaming horse or burro herds may be managed either as one of the components of public lands use or on a specifically designated wild horse or burro range," and that "management practices shall be at the minimal feasible level and shall be consistent to the extent possible and practical with the maintenance of their free-roaming behavior." It also states that "management facilities should be designed and constructed to the extent possible to maintain the free-roaming behavior of the herds."

Part 43 CFR subpart 4730.3 states in part that "the authorized officer shall reserve adequate forage and satisfy other biological requirements of such horses and burros and, when necessary, adjust or exclude domestic livestock use accordingly."

Date

A. MFP-III Decision WH&B 1.3

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Remove wild horses and burros from the checkerboard Horse Areas (HA's) listed below unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses and burros is consummated with the affected private landowner(s). Cooperative agreements have not been obtained on the following areas and wild horses should be removed.

<u>HA</u>	<u>Present Estimated Population</u>	
	<u>Horses/Burros</u>	
	<u>(as of June 1, 1988)</u>	
1. Sonoma	0	0
2. Humboldt	0	0
3. Trinity	5	0
4. East Range	20	0
5. Antelope	0	0
6. Truckee	0	0
	<u>30</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	30	0

B. Management Actions Implemented

1. The decision has been fully implemented except for unconfirmed reports of five wild horses remaining in the Trinity HA, and about 20 in the East Range HA.
2. To implement the decision, 3,957 excess wild horses and seven mules were removed from the HA's.
3. The following HA's are now (May 1, 1988) considered free of all wild horses and burros:
  - a. West Humboldt/Humboldt Range
  - b. Sonoma Range
  - c. Trinity Range
  - d. Truckee Range

C. Planned Actions or Modifications

1. Although all excess animals have been removed from those HA's listed under B.3., the HA boundary will be retained for possible future management actions - such as relocation of wild horses/burros back to one (or more) of the HA's if an agreement to do so is approved.
2. All HA's will be closely monitored, and if an unacceptable number of either wild horses or burros migrate back into a particular HA, these animals will be removed.

Prepared by:

Dick Whaler  
WH&B Specialist

5/19/88  
Date

Concurred:

Gerald L. Mord  
Environmental Coordinator

20 May 88  
Date

Approved:

Gerald Brandred  
Sonoma-Gerlach Area Manager

5-22-88  
Date

The purpose of this update is to record what actions have been completed and initiated, or need to be initiated, to implement management decisions relating to the 4321 program of the Sonoma-Gerlach MFP-III (land use plan) document.

A. MFP-III Decision WHB 1.1

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION - WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM -  
NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

Establish wild horse and burro numbers by herd use area using the following criteria.

Existing/current WH&B numbers (as of July 1, 1982) will be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist.

1. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
2. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District Manager.
3. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.
4. Numbers are established through previously enveloped interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EAs (EARs) were prepared and are still valid.
5. Numbers are established by court order.

Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u> <u>AML</u>	<u>Existing Numbers (as of June 1, 1988)</u> <u>Horses/Burros</u>
Buffalo Hills	272/0	821/0
Lava Beds	<u>1/</u> <del>132/54</del> -375/40	706/243
Fox and Lake Range	434/1	608/0
Warm Springs Canyon	294/10	314/16
Black Rock Range West	424/0	333/0
Seven Troughs	<u>1/</u> <del>762/105</del> -215/64	<u>2/</u> combined with Lava Beds Numbers
Granite Range	176/0	456/0
Calico Mountains	514/0	1006/0
Selenite Range	<u>1/</u> <del>12/1</del> -0/0	0/0
Blue Wing Mountains	<u>1/</u> <del>89/48</del> -50/39	50/22
Tobin Range	19/0	6/0
Augusta Mountains	261/0	Managed by Carson City District
Kamma Mountains	<u>1/</u> <del>39/0</del> -50/0	<u>2/</u> combined with Lava Beds numbers
Stillwater Range	52/0	189/0
Shawave-Nightingale	<u>1/</u> <del>254/11</del> -187/0	193/0

1/ Changed by Blue Wing-Seven Troughs CRMP Agreements

2/ Combined with Lava Beds population numbers in accordance with Blue Wing-Seven Trough CRMP Agreement.

B. Management Actions Implemented

1. The Blue Wing/Seven Troughs CRMP agreement (signed on July 24, 1984) established the AMLs (see above) for wild horses and burros in the Blue Wind Administrative Unit. With this change, the AMLs for non-checkerboard lands in the Sonoma-Gerlach RA as of May 1, 1988, is 3,323 wild horses and 159 burros.
2. To attain AML on non-checkerboard lands, approximately 7,220 wild horses, 399 burros and 22 mules have been removed. These figures are current as of May 1, 1988. This leaves a balance of 2,005 excess animals to be removed to attain AML's.

C. Planned Actions or Modifications

1. Continue implementing MFP-III WHB 1.1 Decision until AML's have been attained for all HMA's within the non-checkerboard areas.

The current (May 1, 1988) estimated population of all HMA's within non-checkerboard areas is 4,587 wild horses and 281 burros.

2. Future plans for removal of excess animals will be based upon an AML (for all HMA's) of 3,323 wild horses and 159 burros, unless modified by one or more of the five criteria listed under A.

Prepared by:

Gick Wheeler  
WHB Specialist

5/19/88  
Date

Concurred:

Gerald S. Nord  
Environmental Coordinator

20 May 88  
Date

Approved:

Gerald Brandt  
S-G Area Manager

5/23/88  
Date

A. MFP-III Decision WH&B 1.5

Do not license domestic horses or burros in allotments which contain wild horses or in adjoining allotments.

B. Management Actions Implemented

1. The decision has been fully implemented.

Requests to license domestic horses or burros in allotments which contain wild horses/burros have been denied.

C. Planned Actions or Modifications

1. Continue to deny requests where applicable.
2. Review requests to license domestic horses or burros for those HA's, or adjoining areas, which no longer contain wild horses or burros, and where the approval of such request would not violate the intent of the decision.

Prepared by:

Dick Wheeler  
WH&B Specialist

5/19/88  
Date

Concurred:

Shallford  
Environmental Coordinator

20 May 88  
Date

Approved:

Ernest Brandvold  
Sonoma-Gerlach Area Manager

5-22-88  
Date

A. MFP-III Decision WH&B 1.7

Appropriate sufficient water on public lands through permit, adjudication or purchase processes as provided by Federal and State Water Law or other appropriate direction to support the uses of the public lands for wild horses, wildlife, aquatic habitat, livestock and recreation.

B. Management Actions Implemented

1. The decision has not, and will not, be implemented until resolution of the water right policy affecting the State of Nevada.

C. Planned Actions or Modifications

1. Implement the decision when authorized.
2. Continue to gather and prepare preliminary survey and design information for plans and projects that would benefit wild horses and burros, and their habitat.

Prepared by:

Dick Whuh  
WH&B Specialist

5/19/88  
Date

Concurred:

Gerald L. Nord  
Environmental Coordinator

20 May 88  
Date

Approved:

Gerald Brandvold  
Sonoma-Gerlach Area Manager

5-22-88  
Date

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION - WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM -  
NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

Establish wild horse and burro numbers by herd use area using the following criteria.

Existing/current WH&B numbers (as of July 1, 1982) will be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist.

1. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
2. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District Manager.
3. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.
4. Numbers are established through previously developed interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EAs (EARs) were prepared and are still valid.
5. Numbers are established by court order.

Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area  
AML's

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Wild Horse/Burros</u>	<u>Current Established Population</u>				
		1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Buffalo Hills	272/0	821/0				
1/ Lava Beds	375/40 2/	706/243				
Fox and Lake Range	434/1	608/0				
Warm Springs Canyon	294/10	314/16				
Black rock Range West	424/0	333/0				
Seven Troughs	215/64 2/					
Granite Range	176/0	456/0				
Calico Mountains	514/0	1006/0				
Selenite Range	0/0 2/	0/0				
Blue Wing Mountains	50/39 2/	50/22				
Tobin Range	19/0	6/0				
Augusta Mountains	261/0	Managed by the Carson City District				
Kamma Mountains	50/0 2/					
Stillwater Range	52/0	189/0				
Shawave-Nightingale	187/0 2/	293/0				

2/ The changes in the above AML numbers were made as a result of the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs CRMP agreement which was signed on July 24, 1984.

1/ Includes Seven Troughs and Kamma Mtns. population.

Updated by:

*Rich Wheeler*  
 WH&B Specialist

*4/24/88*  
 Date

Approved:

*Gerald Brandt*  
 S-G Area Manager

*5-12-88*  
 Date

Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III  
Wild Horse and Burro 1.1

As Currently Written:

WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM - NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

Establish wild horse and burro numbers by herd use area using the following criteria:

Existing/current WH&B numbers (as of July 1, 1982) will be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist:

1. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
2. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District Manager.
3. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.
4. Numbers are established through previously developed interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EAs (EARS) were prepared and are still valid.
5. Numbers are established by court order.

Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>	<u>Existing Numbers</u>
Buffalo Hills	272/0	"
Lava Beds	132/54	"
Fox and Lake Range	434/1	"
Warm Springs Canyon	294/10	"
Black Rock Range West	424/0	"
Seven Troughs	762/105	"
Granite Range	176/0	"
Calico Mountains	514/0	"
Selenite Range	12/1	"
Blue Wing Mountains	89/48	"
Tobin Range	19/0	"
Augusta Mountains	261/0	"
Kamma Mountains	38/0	"
Stillwater Range	52/0	"
Shawave-Nightingale	254/11	"

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>
Buffalo Hills	Buffalo Hills	272/0
Lava Beds	Blue Wing	85/54
	Seven Troughs	47/0
Fox and Lake Range	Rodeo Creek	334/1
	Pole Canyon	100/0
Warm Springs	Soldier Meadows	294/10
Black Rock Range West	Soldier Meadows	424/0
Seven Troughs	Seven Troughs	619/34
	Blue Wing	143/71
Granite Range	Buffalo Hills	176/0
Calico Mountains	Buffalo Hills	107/0
	Calico	42/0
	Leadville	248/0
	Soldier Meadows	117/0
Selenite Range	Blue Wing	12/1
Blue Wing Mountains	Blue Wing	89/48
Tobin Range	Goldbanks	0/0
	Pleasant Valley	0/0
	Pumpernickel Valley	17/0
	South Buffalo	2/0
Augusta Mountains	Jersey Valley	261/0
Kamma Mountains	Seven Troughs	38/0
Stillwater Range	Pleasant Valley	0/0
	South Rochester	36/0
	Rawhide	0/0
	South Buffalo	16/0
	Jersey Valley	0/0
	Cottonwood Canyon	0/0
Shawave-Nightingale	Blue Wing	254/11

Change To:

The decision will remain as originally written.

Rationale:

43 CFR 4730.3 states:

The biological requirements of wild free-roaming horses and burros will be determined based upon appropriate studies or other available information. The needs for soil and watershed protection, domestic livestock, maintenance of environmental quality, wildlife, and other factors will be considered along with wild free-roaming horse and burro requirements. After determining the optimum number of such horses and burros to be maintained on an area, the authorized officer shall reserve adequate forage and satisfy other biological requirements of such horses and burros and, when necessary, adjust or exclude domestic livestock use accordingly.

The district does not have adequate supportable data upon which to establish the number of wild horses and burros to be maintained on each herd use area. Wild horses and burros must be considered comparable with other resource values in the development of resource management plans. Livestock, wild horses and burros would be kept at existing numbers as a starting point for monitoring purposes unless the conditions listed in the above decision existed. The monitoring program is being designed to determine what the proper stocking level for livestock, wild horses and burros is for each allotment. Adjustments in the numbers of animals to be grazed on each area will be determined through this monitoring process.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

1. Nevada Division of State Lands, Carson City, Nevada.
2. Nevada Department of Agriculture, Carson City, Nevada.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION - WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM -  
NON-CHECKERBOARD LANDS

Establish wild horse and burro numbers by herd use area using the following criteria.

Existing/current WH&B numbers (as of July 1, 1982) will be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist.

1. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
2. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District Manager.
3. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.
4. Numbers are established through previously developed interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EAs (EARs) were prepared and are still valid.
5. Numbers are established by court order.

Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>	<u>Existing Numbers</u>
Buffalo Hills	272/0	"
Lava Beds	132/54	"
Fox and Lake Range	434/1	"
Warm Springs Canyon	294/10	"
Black Rock Range West	424/0	"
Seven Troughs	762/105	"
Granite Range	176/0	"
Calico Mountains	514/0	"
Selenite Range	12/1	"
Blue Wing Mountains	89/48	"
Tobin Range	19/0	"
Augusta Mountains	261/0	"
Kamma Mountains	38/0	"
Stillwater Range	52/0	"
Shawave-Nightingale	254/11	"

<u>Herd Use Area</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Wild Horses/Burros</u>
Buffalo Hills	Buffalo Hills	272/0
Lava Beds	Blue Wing	85/54
	Seven Troughs	47/0
Fox and Lake Range	Rodeo Creek	334/1
	Pole Canyon	100/0
Warm Springs	Soldier Meadows	294/10
Black Rock Range West	Soldier Meadows	424/0
Seven Troughs	Seven Troughs	619/34
	Blue Wing	143/71
Granite Range	Buffalo Hills	176/0
Calico Mountains	Buffalo Hills	107/0
	Calico	42/0
	Leadville	248/0
	Soldier Meadows	117/0
Selenite Range	Blue Wing	12/1
Blue Wing Mountains	Blue Wing	89/48
Tobin Range	Goldbanks	0/0
	Pleasant Valley	0/0
	Pumpernickel Valley	17/0
	South Buffalo	2/0
Augusta Mountains	Jersey Valley	261/0
Kamma Mountains	Seven Troughs	38/0
Stillwater Range	Pleasant Valley	0/0
	South Rochester	36/0
	Rawhide	0/0
	South Buffalo	16/0
	Jersey Valley	0/0
	Cottonwood Canyon	0/0
Shawave-Nightingale	Blue Wing	254/11

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horses/Burros 1.1
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

Recommendation: WH/B 1.1

Designate four Herd Management Areas (HMA) for the protection and preservation of wild free-roaming horses/burros (see Wild Horse/BurroMFP Overlay # Sonoma-Gerlach), and prepare a Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) for each area. Designate each HMA as a wild horse and/or burro viewing area. These areas are as follows:

HMA #1 Sonoma Range Herd Managment Area

- 1) Restrict the HMA to the Diamond S Allotment (approximately 35,000 acres) only, and change the name to the Button Point HMA.
- 2) Complete the proposed land exchange (see WH/B MFP Overlay # Sonoma-Gerlach) with the current owner.
- 3) Eliminate all livestock grazing (674 AUMs) on all public lands within the boundaries of this HMA.
- 4) Initiate a cooperative agreement with operators that have private land within the HMA, to maintain wild horses on their lands.
- 5) Adequate forage is not available to support the present number of wild horses. Reduce the herd to 35 head and allow it to build up to 56. This will involve the removal of approximately 89 horses immediately.
- 6) Initiate intensive studies on the horse population in this HMA. This will include studies on seasonal use areas, sex ratios, mortality, natality, wildlife interaction and behavioral patterns.
- 7) Conduct gatherings at intervals that will maintain herd numbers at management levels concurrent with the forage that is available.
- 8) Reseed the Pasture #1 Seeding (BLM Project #802).

HMA	Present #'s	Present Maximum Mgmt #'s (with available forage)
Button Point	124	56

UNITED STATES  
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wild Horses/Burros 1.1

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

Rationale: (Specific to Button Point HMA)

- A) The Diamond S Allotment is completely fenced and has natural barriers to confine the wild horses to the boundaries of the HMA.
- B) Completion of the proposed land exchange will block up the public lands and make intensive management possible.
- C) This HMA will provide the public an excellent opportunity to view wild horses in their natural environment without traveling long distances from a major population center by four wheel drive vehicle. The area is located 7-8 miles northeast of Winnemucca, adjacent to Interstate 80.
- D) The rest stop area located at Button Point can be used to develop an information center with facts and statistics concerning the wild horse/burro program.
- E) Reducing the horse herd by approximately 89 head will insure that the forage demand is less than the carrying capacity of the range.

te: Attach additional sheets, if needed

structions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wild Horses/Burros 1.1

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

HMA #2 Buffalo Hills Herd Management Area

- 1) Eliminate all livestock grazing (1,200 AUMs) on all public lands within the boundaries of this HMA.
- 2) Initiate exchange of use with operators that have private land within the HMA.
- 3) Allow the maximum number of wild horses for the forage presently available.
- 4) Construct boundary fences in critical locations (to be identified) to maintain the integrity of the HMA.
- 5) Continue and initiate further intensive studies on the sixteen collared horses in this HMA. This will include studies on seasonal use areas, sex ratios, mortality, natality, wildlife interaction and behavioral patterns.
- 6) Conduct gatherings at intervals that will maintain herd numbers at management levels.

<u>HMA</u>	<u>Present Numbers</u>	<u>Maximum Mgmt #'s</u>
Buffalo Hills	128	790

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wild Horse/Burro 1.1

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

Rationale: (Specific to Buffalo Hills HMA)

- A) The gathering operation conducted in 1979 has already given the Bureau a large amount of biological base data on the population of wild horses in this HMA. Sixteen collared horses have been released back into the area for the purpose of gathering further data.
- B) With the current carrying capacity the wild horse herd can expand its numbers up to six times that of the present population. This will take a minimum of 15 years to accomplish at normal recruitment rates.
- C) A livestock closure is currently in effect for this area. Therefore, the economic impact to the livestock operator would not be severe.
- D) This HMA will provide the public an excellent opportunity to view wild horses. Highway 81 and a gravel county road form the perimeter for over half of the HMA.
- E) The Buffalo Hills is scheduled for reintroduction of bighorn sheep by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Currently the district does not have any areas where sheep and wild horses coexist. This will provide a unique opportunity to study the interrelationships and dietary overlap of the two species.
- F) The opportunity exists to initiate a program of prescribed burning to improve the habitat without affecting the wild horse population. An area could be burned and fenced off for several years to allow adequate rehabilitation and still leave enough forage on the remainder of the HMA to support the horse herd.

UNITED STATES  
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (M/P)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horse/Burros 1.1
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

HMA #3 Granite Range Herd Management Area

- 1) Eliminate all livestock grazing (2,861 AUMs) on the public lands within the boundaries of this HMA.
- 2) Initiate exchange of use with operators that have private land within the HMA.
- 3) Allow the maximum number of wild horses for the forage that is presently available.
- 4) Construct boundary fences in critical locations (to be identified) to maintain the integrity of the HMA.
- 5) Continue and initiate further intensive studies on the wild horses in this HMA. This will include studies on seasonal use areas, sex ratios, mortality, natality, wildlife interactions and behavioral patterns.
- 6) Conduct gatherings at intervals that will maintain herd numbers at management levels.
- 7) Remove the Granite Mountain Drift Fence (BLM project #307) and the Crutcher Canyon Fence (#4074).

HMA	Present Estimated Numbers	Maximum Mgmt #'s
Granite Range	121*	636

\*Present numbers projected from the 1977 inventory using an 11% net increase per year.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horse/Burro 1.1
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

Rationale: (specific to the Granite Range HMA)

- A) A partial study conducted by the Smithsonian Institute has photographically identified approximately 70% of the population in this area, and has determined the sex of 93% of these animals. This gives the district a good foundation of base data to conduct further studies.
- B) With the current carrying capacity the wild horse herd can expand its numbers up to five times that of the present population. This will take a minimum of 12 years to accomplish at normal recruitment rates.
- C) A livestock closure is currently in effect for approximately 50% of this area. The economic impacts have already been imposed on several of the livestock operators.
- D) This area has one of the largest concentrations of mule deer in the district. It also has a moderate-sized population of antelope and is scheduled for reintroduction of bighorn sheep. This will provide a unique opportunity to study a variety of wildlife interrelationships and dietary overlap with wild horses.
- E) The opportunity exists to initiate a program of prescribed burning to improve the habitat without affecting the wild horse population. An area could be burned and fenced off for several years to allow adequate rehabilitation and still leave enough forage on the remainder of the HMA to support the horse herd.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horse/Burro 1.1
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

HMA #4 Fox and Lake Range Herd Management Area

- 1) Change the name to the Rodeo Creek HMA.
- 2) Eliminate all livestock grazing (5,490 AUMs) on all public lands within this HMA.
- 3) Reduce the present wild horse herd to 100 animals and allow it to build up to 477. This will involve the removal of approximately 515 horses immediately.
- 4) Initiate exchange of use with operators that have private land within the HMA.
- 5) Remove the Pole Canyon Allotment Fence (BLM project #1081).
- 6) Construct boundary fences in critical locations (to be identified) to maintain the integrity of the HMA.
- 7) Develop permanent water sources, if possible, in T. 31 N., R. 23 E.; T. 31 N., R. 22 E.; T. 30 N., R. 23 E.; T. 30 N., R. 21 E.; T. 29 N., R. 23 E.; T. 28 N., R. 23 E.
- 8) Initiate intensive studies on the wild horses in this HMA. This will include studies on seasonal use areas, sex ratios, mortality, natality, wildlife interactions and behavioral patterns.
- 9) Conduct gatherings at intervals that will maintain herd numbers at management levels.

HMA	Present Estimated Numbers	Maximum Mgmt. #'s
Rodeo Creek	615*	477

\*Present numbers projected from the 1977 inventory using an 11% net increase per year.

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Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horses/Burros 1.1
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

Rationale: (Specific to the Rodeo Creek HMA)

- A) This HMA will provide the public an excellent opportunity to view wild horses in their natural environment without traveling long distances from major population centers or poor roads. The area is located 70 miles north of Reno, and 20 miles south of Gerlach adjacent to Highway 34.

Rationale: (Applies to all four HMAs)

- A) Section 3 of PL 92-195 states in part that the Secretary "is authorized and directed to protect and manage wild free-roaming horses and burros as components of the public lands, and he may designate and maintain specific ranges on public lands as sanctuaries for their protection and preservation. . ."
- B) Part 43 CFR subpart 4730.5 states in part that "the authorized officer may designate and maintain specifically designated ranges principally for the protection and preservation of wild free-roaming horses and burros."
- C) There is direct competition for forage between wild horses and cattle, thus the elimination of cattle would ensure adequate forage for horses within the area.
- D) An exchange of use for private lands would also ensure the proper use of the HMA. Exchange of use would be the most viable alternative to reduce the influence of domestic livestock with the HMA without fencing.
- E) Maximum numbers within these HMAs would ensure a continuation of viable wild horse populations within the areas. There would also be a more diverse gene pool to ensure the continuation of wild horses within the resource area.
- F) Data on wild horses and burros in this district are lacking. Studies of this type are vital if proper management of wild horses is expected.

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Name (M/P)	Sonoma-GERlach
Activity	Wild Horses/Burros 1.1
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

- G) Fences within a HMA are in direct conflict with proper management of wild horse and burros. The fences will curtail horse movement within the HMA and may adversely impact areas of critical environmental concern.
- H) To ensure the integrity of the HMAs boundary fences must be developed and installed in critical areas (to be identified). These fences would keep livestock intrusion into the HMA to a minimum. They would also keep the horses within the HMA. Design of a horse management fence should be made with these criteria in mind.
- I) Wild horses will in time exceed the grazing capacity of all HMAs because of the 11% annual increase. A regular program of gathering horses will guarantee proper use of the range within the HMA.
- J) Water sources are not readily available in all of the specified areas. Water availability is critical to the survival of an isolated herd. Therefore water should be developed where it is known to be limited. Additional water supplies will insure that the HMA is utilized to the greatest extent.
- K) Part 43 CFR subpart 4730.3 states in part that "the authorized officer shall reserve adequate forage and satisfy other biological requirements of such horses and burros and, when necessary, adjust or exclude domestic livestock use accordingly."
- L) CFR 43 4730.6 states in part that "the authorized officer shall in connection with the designation of a specific range, develop a proposed wild free-roaming horse or burro management plan designed to protect, manage and control wild free-roaming horses and burros on the area on a continuing basis."
- M) If an increase in forage becomes available through management, horses should be able to increase naturally to use available forage. This will ensure herd viability and the continuity of the HMA.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Activity	Wild Horses/Burros 1.1
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

- N) HMAs are complimentary with the idea of having wild and free-roaming horses on public lands. These horses would not be harassed and disturbed to the degree they are presently and they would be in better shape and show greater vigor. These areas are large enough where lack of space would not be a problem.
- O) These areas were selected from all horse use areas because of the number of horses using the area, the viability of the herd using the area, the location of area, and the public interest shown in development of HMAs.
- P) Ranches within these areas will be drastically affected by these HMAs. The majority of the livestock operations will be eliminated, with the implementation of the HMAs.
- Q) There are no specified viewing areas within the district or educational facilities for the general public. By providing areas with good access and informational signing, the public is provided an opportunity to see wild horses in their natural state.
- R) Informational signing coupled with observing the wild horses would help to initiate a higher level of understanding of WH/B, their habitat, management problems and opportunities.

Support

Range - to work with operator in exchange of use.  
Nevada State Office - to coordinate with State wild horse specialists for technical input on studies needed.  
Operations - to remove fences, and design and construction and maintenance of boundary fences.  
Palomino Valley Gathering Crew and Facilities - for removal of recruitment numbers.  
Operations - to design and develop water sources.  
Range - supply input on range condition to properly evaluate horse numbers within the HMA.  
Archeology - for clearing of all trap sites.  
Rehabilitation - of lands if necessary  
Nevada State Brand Inspector - inspect captured wild horses for brands.  
Wilderness - technical input into capture site.

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Activity	Wild Horses/Burros 1.1
Overlay Reference	Step 1 Step 3

WH/B 1.1 (continued)

Nevada State Office Law Enforcement - protection of horses in  
accordance with the law  
Public Affairs - P.R. work  
Lands - to initiate land exchange  
Contracting - to aid in removing wild horses/burros  
Veterinarian - for blood tests and emergency disposal  
Wildlife - to aid in development and design of fences and water  
sources  
Recreation Specialist - informational/interpretative signing  
Nevada Department of Wildlife - coordination of introduction of  
bighorn sheep  
Secretary, Department of Interior - designation of Herd Management  
Areas

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Multiple Use Recommendation

Designate three Herd Management Areas (HMAs) for the protection and preservation of wild-free roaming horses/burros, and prepare a Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) for each area.

These areas are as follows:

## HMA #1 - Button Point Herd Management Area

Present Estimated #s	Optimum Mgmt. #s/AUMs
124	46 horses - 550

## HMA #2 - Buffalo Hills Herd Management Area

Present Estimated #s	Optimum Mgmt. #s/AUMs
128	618 horses - 7,415

## HMA #3 - Lava Beds Herd Management Area

Present Estimated #s	Optimum Mgmt. #s/AUMs
826h/23b	404 horses & 50 burros - 5,450

Rationale

Herd Management Areas would allow for the maintenance of a viable population of wild horses and burros within the planning area, in a situation that would create an intensive management opportunity for horses and burros.

Maximum numbers of horses and burros were determined by allocating forage within the HMAs to wildlife and wild horses and burros only.

Restriction of wild horses and burros to HMA (where livestock use is excluded) would permit effective intensive livestock management on non HMA areas.

Reasons for selection of each specific HMA follows.

## Button Point - HMA

1. This HMA is completely fenced.
2. A proposed land exchange has been made in this area to effectively block up the land patterns.
3. The HMA is located adjacent to Interstate 80, 8 miles northeast of Winnemucca. This area would afford the public an excellent opportunity to view wild horses in their habitat without traveling long distances from a major population center by 4-wheel drive vehicle.

WH&B 1.1 (continued)

4. Area presents an ideal situation/location for a recreational/informational site on Wild Horses and Burros.
5. This HMA would contain relatively small population of horses and present an ideal study situation.

Buffalo Hills HMA -

1. Potential for high population of horses near a major population center (100 miles north of Reno, Nevada).
2. Livestock closure in effect since 1977, and the livestock operator has since been reduced in this allotment by 40% of his active preference, therefore substantial reduction in livestock numbers would not be required.
3. Small amount of private land in HMA.
4. Previous gathering operations in this area have resulted in a large amount of biological base data on the wild horses in this HMA.
5. Good public access - State Highway 81 and a gravel county road form the perimeter for over half of the HMA.

Lava Beds HMA -

1. Remote location - in contrast to Buttoin Point and Buffalo Hills HMA.
2. Opportunity to observe study wild horses in a truly remote (wild) situation.
3. Few conflicts from large ungulate wildlife populations.
4. Little or no development (i.e., fenced, roads, private land) in this HMA, to restrict or impede horse movements.
5. Small population of burros in HMA, only proposed HMA with present burro population.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Reject the recommendation.

Rationale

Documented public comment from the wild horse groups says that it never was their intention to completely remove livestock from wild horse management areas. The removal of livestock from these ranges would have an adverse economic impact on true livestock operators and is not consistent with present Bureau policy.

MFP III

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	
Sonoma-Gerlach	
Activity	
Wild Horse/Burro 1.2	
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

Recommendation: WH/B 1.2

MFP 1

Establish Herd Use Areas (HUAs) in 11 areas for extensive management of wild horses and burros (see Wild Horse/Burro MFP 1 Overlay #\_\_\_\_ Sonoma-Gerlach).

- (1) Those areas that do not require gatherings to reach manageable numbers are as follows:

HUA	Present est. #'s *		Management #'s	
	Horses	Burros	Horses	Burros
Tobin Range	23		50	
Stillwater Range	31		50	
Kamma Mountains	16	1	25	1
Selenite Range	5	7	25	25
Blue Wing Mountains	53	32	75	50
Warm Springs Canyon	107	18	150	25

- Numbers in these areas will remain as they are presently found.
- Livestock numbers will have to be decreased to accommodate the present horse/burro numbers and fluctuate in preceding years to compensate for the net annual increment.
- To determine the viability of the above herds, they will go unchecked for three years.
- Extensive management will consist of inventory and population regulation for herd stabilization and control.
- Developed waters will be made available to wild horses/burros on a yearlong basis.
- Further fencing will not be allowed within the HUAs.
- Horses/burros will be allowed to increase to management levels if possible.
- Studies would be initiated to determine the interactions between wild horses and livestock.

\*Present numbers projected from 1977 inventory using an 11% survival rate.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horses/Burros 1.2
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.2 (continued)

(2) Those areas that do require gatherings to reach manageable numbers are as follows:

HUA	Present Est. #'s		Maximum Mgmt. #'s	
	Horses	Burros	Horses	Burros
Augusta Mountains	78		20	
Calico Mountains	249		100	
Black Rock West	259		75	
Lava Beds	826	23	150	50
Nightingale Mtns.	260		100	

- Wild horses will be reduced to a level 50% below their maximum manageable numbers.
- Domestic livestock numbers will be reduced to accomodate the present wild horse/burro numbers. The livestock numbers will then be adjusted when the wild horses are reduced and will fluctuate over preceding years to compensate for the net annual increment.
- Extensive management will consist of inventory and population regulation for herd stabilization and control.
- Developed waters will be made available to wild horses/burros on a yearlong basis.
- Further fencing will not be allowed within the HUAs.
- Studies could be initiated to determine the interaction between wild horses and livestock.

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Name (MFP)	
Sonoma-Gerlach	
Activity	
Wild Horses/Burros 1.2	
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

Rationale (1):

- A) Section 1 of PL 92-195 states in part that wild horses/burros "are to be considered in the area where they are presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands."
- B) Section 3 of PL 92-195 states in part that "the Secretary is authorized and directed to protect and manage wild free-roaming horses and burros as components of the public lands," and that the Secretary "shall manage wild free-roaming horses and burros in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands."
- C) Section 3 of PL 92-195 also states in part that "all management activities shall be at the minimum feasible level."
- D) Part 43 CFR subpart 4730.2 states in part that "wild free-roaming horses or burro herds may be managed either as one of the components of public land use or on a specifically designated wild horse or burro range," and that "management practices shall be at the minimal feasible level and shall be consistent to the extent possible and practical with the maintenance of their free-roaming behavior." It also states that "management facilities should be designed and constructed to the extent possible to maintain the free-roaming behavior of the herds."
- E) Part 43 CFR subpart 4730.3 states in part that "the authorized officer shall reserve adequate forage and satisfy other biological requirements of such horses and burros and, when necessary, adjust or exclude domestic livestock use accordingly."
- F) Wild horse/burro numbers will fluctuate over time. To prevent overgrazing and overutilization of the forage resource, domestic livestock numbers will have to be adjusted to suit the carrying capacity.

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Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horses/Burros 1.2
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.2 (continued)

(Rationale [1] continued)

- G) There is a question as to the viability of the horse and burro herds using the above areas. The Kamma Mountains and Warm Springs Canyon HUAs are the only areas to show an increase in numbers since 1974. The others have declined or remained static.
- H) In three years the areas will be reinventoried. If the populations continue to decline the remaining animals will be removed.
- I) Inventories, gatherings and the implementation of a limited number of extensive studies will insure proper management of the HUAs.
- J) Water availability is critical for the survival of wild horses and burros. If water is available in several areas, utilization is more uniform.
- K) Fencing within the area would limit the range of wild horses and burros and possibly adversely impact areas of critical environmental concern.
- L) Increase of horses to management levels would guarantee viable and vigorous horses within the area. If horses only increase to management levels and cattle numbers are controlled there would be no adverse impact to the range resources.
- M) It would be virtually impossible to have wild animals within a grazing system. The burros or horses would have to be herded into the use pastures and fence construction have to be such that the horses or burros would not break through. These two points alone make a grazing system unfeasible.

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Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horse/Burro 1.2
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.2 (continued)

Rationale (2):

- A) Section 1 of PL 92-195 states in part that wild horses/burros "are to be considered in the area where they are presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands."
- B) Section 3 of PL 92-195 states in part that "the Secretary is authorized and directed to protect and manage wild free-roaming horses and burros as components of the public lands," and that the Secretary "shall manage wild free-roaming horses and burros in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands."
- C) Section 3 of PL 92-195 also states in part that "all management activities shall be at the minimum feasible level."
- D) Part 43 CFR subpart 4730.2 states in part that "wild free-roaming horses or burro herds may be managed either as one of the components of public land use or on a specifically designated wild horse or burro range," and that "management practices shall be at the minimal feasible level and shall be consistent to the extent possible and practical with the maintenance of their free-roaming behavior." It also states that "management facilities should be designed and constructed to the extent possible to maintain the free-roaming behavior of the herds."
- E) Part 43 CFR subpart 4730.3 states in part that "the authorized officer shall reserve adequate forage and satisfy other biological requirements of such horses and burros and, when necessary, adjust or exclude domestic livestock use accordingly."
- F) Wild horse/burro numbers will fluctuate over time. To prevent overgrazing and overutilization of the forage resource, domestic livestock numbers will have to be adjusted to suit the carrying capacity.
- G) Inventories, gatherings and the implementation of a limited number of extensive studies, will insure proper management of the HUAs.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wild Horse/Burro 1.2

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

WH/B 1.2 (continued)

(Rationale [2] continued)

- H) Water availability is critical for the survival of wild horses and burros. If water is available in several areas, utilization is more uniform.
- I) Fencing within the area would limit the range of wild horses and burros and possibly adversely impact areas of critical environmental concern.
- J) It would be virtually impossible to have wild animals within a grazing system. The burros or horses would have to be herded into the use pastures and fence construction have to be such that the horses or burros would not break through. These two points alone make a grazing system unfeasible.
- K) Reduction of herd numbers would ensure that the herd that remained was vigorous and that adequate forage would be available.

Support:

Palomino Valley Gathering Crew - for removal of horses and burros.  
Range - to ensure carrying capacity is not exceeded.  
Engineering - to develop roads if needed to remove captured animals.  
Archeology - to clear areas identified as trap sites.  
Safety - for horse gathering and public safety.  
Rehabilitation - of lands if necessary.  
State Brand Inspector - inspection of captured horses.  
Public Affairs - P.R. work.  
Law Enforcement - protection of horses in accordance with the law.  
Contracting - aid in wild horse/burro removal.  
Veterinarian - blood tests and emergency disposal.  
Wilderness - technical input into capture sites.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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WH&B 1.2

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Wild horse and burrs are direct competitors for forage with livestock.

The URAs indicated a substantial portion of the vegetation in the resource area in less than good ecological conditions. Multi-activities have recommended intensive rotational livestock grazing systems to help reverse this condition and reverse declining trends in ecological condition. Success of these intensive grazing systems depends upon meeting the physiological requirement of "key" or "management" plant species. This requires periodic rest during the critical growth stages of these key management species.

Intensive grazing management systems which require or are based upon rest-rotation of livestock numbers cannot be expected to meet management objectives if substantial numbers of wild horses and burros occupy the same allotment.

Wild horses and burros could not be effectively rotated within the rotational sequences required by intensive grazing systems.

Approximately 1,068 horses and 50 burros have been recommended to be intensively managed on three HMAs without livestock use on any of these three HMAs. This figure amounts to 9.3% of all forage allocated.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

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Name (MFP)	
Sonoma-Gerlach	
Activity	
Wild Horse/Burro 1.3	
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

Recommendation: WH/B 1.3 ✓

MFP 1

Remove all wild horses/burros from the following checkerboard HUAs (see Sonoma-Gerlach WH/B MFP 1 Overlay #\_\_\_) in a three-year time period:

<u>Allotment #</u>	<u>Allotment Name</u>	<u>HUA</u>	<u>Present Est. #s *</u>
101	Rock Creek	Sonoma	34
102	Sonoma	Sonoma	22
104	Coal Canyon-Poker	Humboldts	214
104	Coal Canyon-Poker	Trinity	7
105	Goldbanks	East Range	75
106	Rye Patch	Humboldts	41
106	Rye Patch	Trinity	27
107	Thomas Creek	Sonoma	16
109	Clear Creek	Sonoma	41
111	Harmony	Sonoma	15
112	Humboldt House	Humboldts	123
114	Pleasant Valley	East Range	153
115	Prince Royal	Humboldts	22
116	Pumpnickel	Sonoma	12
117	Rochester	Humboldts	153
118	Star Peak	East Range	118
118	Star Peak	Humboldts	184
119	Rawhide	East Range	39
119	Rawhide	Humboldts	102
121	Dolly Haden	East Range	238
124	Klondike	East Range	154
131	Ragged Top	Trinity	182
134	Seven Troughs	Seven Troughs	231
134	Seven Troughs	Antelope	67
135	Blue Wing	Shawave	446
135	Blue Wing	Truckee	5
137	Desert Queen	Truckee	59
140	Majuba	Antelope	136
140	Majuba	Trinity	4
143	White Horse	East Range	205

\*Present numbers estimated from the 1977 inventory using an 11% net increase per year.

(A) Adjust domestic livestock use to meet the carrying capacity until all wild horses/burros are removed.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III  
Wild Horses and Burros 1.3

As Currently Written:

Remove wild horses and burros from the checkerboard Herd Use Areas (HUAs) unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses and burros is consummated with the affected private landowner(s). Cooperative agreements have not been obtained on the following areas and wild horses should be removed.

<u>Herd Use Areas</u>	<u>Present Est. Numbers* of Horses &amp; Burros To Be Removed</u>
1. Sonoma	330
2. Humboldt	375
3. Trinity	217
4. East Range	315
5. Antelope	226/21
6. Truckee	75
TOTALS	<u>1,538/21</u>

\* Present numbers estimated from 1980 inventory assuming an 11% net increase per year.

Change To:

The decision will remain as originally written. Estimated numbers have been updated to reflect recent inventory and roundup data.

Rationale:

The HUAs designated for complete horse/burro removal are in a checkerboard land pattern. Landowners from each HUA have requested removal of wild horses/burros from their private lands. Section 4 of P.L. 92-195 directs the authorized officer to remove wild horses/burros from private lands at the owner's request.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, Reno, Nevada.

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Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach
Activity	Wild Horses/Burros 1.3
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

WH/B 1.3 (continued)

Rationale:

The HUAs designated for complete horse/burro removal are in a checkerboard land pattern. Landowners from each HUA have requested removal of wild hoes/burros from their private lands. Section 4 of PL 92-195 and part 43 CFR subpart 4750.3 directs the authorized officer to remove wild horses/burros from private lands at the owner's request.

Management of wild horse/burros in an area of checkerboard land pattern is not feasible.

During the three-year time frame allowed for the removal of wild horses, the remaining animals will continue to increase at an annual rate of 11%. This figure will have to be added to the present estimated numbers to insure that all animals will be removed.

Support:

Palomino Valley Gathering Crew (PVGC) - for removal of excess wild horses/burros.

Contracting - to aid the PVGC in removing horses.

Range - to insure carrying capacity is not exceeded.

Operations - to develop roads if needed to remove captured animals.

Archeology - to clear areas identified as trap sites.

Safety - for horse gathering and public safety.

Watershed - for rehabilitation of lands if necessary.

State Brand Inspector - inspection of captured horses.

Public Affairs - P.R. work.

Law Enforcement - protection of horses in accordance with law.

Veterinarian - blood tests and emergency disposal.

Wilderness - technical input into capture site location.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

Multiple Use Recommendation

Remove all wild horses and burros from the checkerboard Horse Use Areas (HUAs) listed below:

	<u>HUA</u>	<u>Present Est. #s*</u> <u>Horses/Burros</u>
1.	Sonoma **	140
2.	Humboldt	602
3.	Trinity	220
4.	East Range	982
5.	Seven Troughs	286/48
6.	Antelope	203
7.	Shawave	446
8.	Truckee	64
	TOTALS	2,943/48

\* Present numbers estimated from 1977 inventory using an 11% net increase per year.

\*\* Does not include Button Point HMA.

Rationale

The HUAs designated for complete horse/burro removal are in a checkerboard land pattern. Landowners from each HUA have requested removal of wild horses/burros from their private lands. Section 4 of P.L. 92-195 and part 43 CFR subpart 4750.3 directs the authorized officer to remove wild horses/burros from private lands at the owner's request.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Remove wild horses and burros from the checkerboard Horse Use Areas (HUAs) listed below unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses and burros is consummated with the affected private landowner(s). Cooperative agreements have not been obtained on the following areas and wild horses should be removed.

	<u>HUA</u>	<u>Present Est. #s*</u> <u>Horses/Burros</u>
1.	Sonoma	330
2.	Humboldt	705
3.	Trinity	271
4.	East Range	315
5.	Antelope	226/21
6.	Truckee	75
	TOTALS	1,922/21

\* Present numbers estimated from 1977 inventory using an 11% net increase per year

Rationale

Same as MFP II.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wild Horses/Burros 1.4

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

Recommendation: WH/B 1.4

Make all water that is presently found on public land available for wild horse and burro use. All waters that are available to horses or cattle in herd use areas will remain available yearlong for horse use.

Develop a water distribution system that is suited for horse use and compatible with wildlife use. All new water developments within HMAs or HUAs will be required to use this system.

Rationale:

- A) Wild horses and burros require free water to sustain themselves.
- B) Water should be available within all areas of a horse range and HUAs to ensure proper distribution, and prevent horse concentration, thus overuse and to avoid undue stress to their numbers.
- C) A system should be developed to supply clean water to wild horses and burros.
- D) Present systems are not applicable to horse use as horses will destroy above ground structures when water is not readily available.
- E) The system should be designed to allow a minimum amount of siltation to occur.
- F) All waters on public lands will be appropriated according to procedures as established by the State of Nevada or appropriate Bureau or Department directives.

Support:

Engineering/Operations - design, development, installation and maintenance of horse watering systems where identified.

Archeology - to clear water development sites.

Solicitor - to obtain legal access to water on public lands.

Water Filings

Wildlife - to see that the horse watering system is compatible with wildlife.

WH&B 1.4

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II Reject the recommendation. See the Multiple Use Recommendation for Watershed 2.1.

Reasons

Bureau policy is clear as to providing adequate water source for WH&B - Land Use Decision not required to implement Bureau policy.

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale. Make a part of the District standard operating procedure.

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Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wild Horses/Burros 1.5

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

Recommendation: WH/B 1.5 ✓

**MFP I** Do not license domestic horses or burros in allotments which contain wild horses or in adjoining allotments.

Rationale:

- A) Management of WH/B would be facilitated by not allowing domestic horse or burro use in allotments containing wild horses and/or burros or in allotments adjoining areas which contain them.
- B) Wild horses/burros can break down fences and gates could be left open which would allow mixing of domestic and wild animals and create many management problems such as:
  - 1) Breeding of domestic to wild horses.
  - 2) Harassment to wild horses during roundup of domestic animals.
  - 3) Introduction of diseases from domestic to wild horses.
  - 4) Possible illegal roundups and branding of wild horses during gatherings of domestic animals.
  - 5) During inventories it would be impossible to distinguish wild from domestic horses; therefore, erroneous counts would result.

Support:

Range

Multiple Use Recommendation

License domestic horses and burros only in those areas where such domestic animals would not be expected to mix with populations of wild horses and/or burros.

Rationale

Management of wild horse and burro would be facilitated by not allowing domestic horse or burro use in areas where mixes are likely to occur.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wild Horses/Burros 1.6

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

Recommendation: WH/B 1.6

MFP I

- A) Allow a "let-burn" fire policy with proper rehabilitation on the following areas until proper herd management levels are reached:

HMA's

Buffalo Hills  
Granite Range

HUA's

Tobin Range  
Stillwater Range  
Kamma Mountains  
Selenite Range  
Blue Wing Mountains  
Warm Springs Canyon

- B) Immediate fire suppression procedures will be initiated on the following areas:

HMA's

Button Point  
Rodeo Creek

HUA's

Augusta Mountains  
Calico Mountains  
Black Rock West  
Lava Beds  
Nightingale Mountains

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Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Wild Horses/Burros 1.6

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

WH/B 1.6 (continued)

Rationale (A):

- 1) The wild horse numbers in these areas are at level that is below the carrying capacity of the range. Burning will enhance the vegetation and improve the habitat.
- 2) Proper rehabilitation will require that the area be fenced off and reseeded when necessary. The loss of habitat for several years during rehabilitation will not affect the wild horse herd directly in that the herd will not have to be reduced to compensate for the reduction in forage.

Rationale (B):

- 1) Burning would improve the habitat in these areas, but the areas will be stocked to their full capacity, and it would be too difficult to manipulate and reduce wild horse numbers every time a fire occurred to compensate for the loss of forage.

Support:

Range  
Fire

WH&B 1.6

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP II Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

No horses are recommended to be maintained in the HUAs listed. See Multiple Use Recommendation WH&B 1.2. The recommended HMAs have changed from those identified (see WH&B Multiple Use Recommendation 1.10).

Significant broadleaf trees and shrubs are found in the identified HMAs. Other resource activities, wildlife and forestry, have requested immediate suppression when these type are involved in a wildfire.

Support

Fire

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

WHB 1.7

Multiple Use Recommendation

MFP 11 Appropriate sufficient water on public lands through permit, adjudication or purchase processes as provided by Federal and State Water Law or other appropriate direction to support the uses of the public lands for wild horses, wildlife, aquatic habitat, livestock and recreation.

Rationale

Water is an integral and necessary part of all resource activity requirements.

The legal right to water must be pursued in order to gain legal title to the needed quantities.

ED 11 Demands upon existing waters on public lands will increase. The Bureau must insure that needed quantities of acquired by appropriation, purchase or by other appropriate direction.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.